AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

TO H.R. 1017

OFFERED BY MRS. WALORSKI OF INDIANA

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2   (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the

3 ''Veterans Information Security Improvement Act''.

4   (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for

5 this Act is as follows:

6 **SEC. 2. GOVERNANCE OF INFORMATION SECURITY PRO-**

7   **GRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**

8   **FAIRS.**

9   (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND

10 STAFF.—

1   (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter

2   57 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by

3   inserting after section 5723 the following new sec-

4   tion:

5 **"§ 5723A. Governance of information security pro-**

6   **gram**

7   "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall improve the

8 transparency and the coordination of the information se-

9 curity program of the Department in accordance with this

10 section.

11   "(b) OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY.—

12 (1) The Secretary shall ensure that the Assistant Sec-

13 retary for Information and Technology, as the Chief Infor-

14 mation Officer of the Department, possesses—

15   "(A) the appropriate education, validated expe-

16   rience, and capabilities in the management of infor-

17   mation technology organizations;

18   "(B) an industry recognized certification in in-

19   formation security and cyber security defense; and

20   "(C) demonstrated, sound technical and busi-

21   ness capabilities.

22   "(2) The Secretary shall ensure that the staff of the

23 Office of Information and Technology who perform secu-

24 rity functions, including the assessment and analysis of

25 risk, security auditing, security operations, and security

1 engineering, are assigned to the Office of Information Se-

2 curity.

3 ''(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the Office of In-

4 formation and Technology, in coordination with the head

5 of the Office of Information Security, maintains appro-

6 priate information security functions, as applicable, to—

7   ''(A) incorporate secure software assurance

8   processes into the software development lifecycle for

9   all software development activities;

10   ''(B) validate that each third-party developed

11   software used in any information system of the De-

12   partment meets the standards of the National Insti-

13   tute of Standards and Technology with respect to

14   security, safety, reliability, functionality and extensi-

15   bility;

16   ''(C) maintain established information security

17   baseline controls for such information systems, and

18   immediately remediate systems determined to be out

19   of compliance with established baseline controls to

20   the maximum extent possible;

21   ''(D) ensure that the security architecture of

22   the Department is documented and fully integrated

23   into the overall enterprise architecture strategy of

24   the Department;

4

1 “(E) ensure that the information system secu-
2 rity plan or related documents of the Department
3 addressing information security are detailed and
4 fully integrated into the overall enterprise architec-
5 ture strategy of the Department;

6 “(F) deploy and maintain centralized security
7 monitoring capabilities capable of detecting and
8 alerting of security events in real time;

9 “(G) design and deploy an effective incident re-
10 sponse capability, including retention of industry ex-
11 perts in forensics, threat intelligence, and malware
12 analysis;

13 “(H) develop and implement a policy that re-
14 stricts the development of new data warehouses and
15 data marts holding sensitive personal information of
16 veterans and reduces the number of data marts
17 holding such information;

18 “(I) protect sensitive information of the Depart-
19 ment and sensitive personal information to a defined
20 data classification policy in accordance with govern-
21 ance and compliance requirements, leveraging digital
22 signature (authenticity and integrity) and digital
23 rights management (confidentiality, authorization
24 and audit) technology where appropriate; and

5

1   "(J) develop working relationships with other

2   departments and agencies of the Federal Govern-

3   ment whose information security efforts intersect in

4   any way with the Department.

5   "(c) OFFICE OF INFORMATION SECURITY.—(1) The

6 Secretary shall ensure that the head of the Office of Infor-

7 mation Security possesses—

8   "(A) the appropriate education and validated

9   experience with respect to information security;

10   "(B) an industry recognized certification in

11   cyber security defense;

12   "(C) demonstrated, sound technical and busi-

13   ness capabilities; and

14   "(D) other relevant experience.

15   "(2) The Secretary shall ensure that all of the field

16 staff of the Office of Information Security, including rel-

17 evant staff of the Office of Information Technology, whose

18 primary responsibility is the protection of personally iden-

19 tifiable information of veterans maintain current informa-

20 tion security training and possess a certain level of infor-

21 mation security, cyber security defense, and technical ca-

22 pabilities and certifications as appropriate.".

23   (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-

24   tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended

1   by inserting after the item relating to section 5723

2   the following new item:

"5723A. Governance of information security program.".

3   (b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 5721 of title 38, United

4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-

5 lowing new paragraphs:

6   "(24) DATA MART.—The term 'data mart'

7   means a subset of a data warehouse that contains

8   information for a specific department or entity of an

9   organization rather than the entire organization.

10   "(25) DATA WAREHOUSE.—The term 'data

11   warehouse' means a collection of data designed to

12   support management decision making that contains

13   a wide variety of data that present a coherent pic-

14   ture of business conditions for an entire organization

15   at a single point in time and whose development in-

16   cludes the development of systems to extract data

17   from operating systems plus installation of a ware-

18   house database system that provides managers flexi-

19   ble access to the data.

20   "(26) DIGITAL SIGNATURES.—The term 'digital

21   signatures' means a special class of electronic signa-

22   tures that use digital certificates and cryptographic

23   algorithms to provide the recipients of electronic

24   documents the ability to verify that the content—

1   ``(A) has not been altered or tampered

2   with; and

3   ``(B) originated from the individual or enti-

4   ty that sent the document.

5   ``(27) DIGITAL RIGHTS MANAGEMENT.—The

6 term 'digital rights management' means providing

7 owners of electronic documents the ability to dynam-

8 ically control the use of that content, including, at

9 a minimum, the ability to—

10   ``(A) determine who is able to open and

11   read the document;

12   ``(B) determine what permissions to act

13   upon the document are given to a recipient who

14   opens the document; and

15   ``(C) know what the recipient has done

16   with the document.

17   ``(28) MALWARE.—The term 'malware' means

18 malicious software used to perform unwanted actions

19 on a computer, a network, or computing environ-

20 ment.''.

21 **SEC. 3. SECURITY OF CRITICAL NETWORK INFRASTRUC-**

22   **TURE, INCLUDING DOMAIN CONTROLLER, OF**

23   **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

24   (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the

25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-

8

1 erans Affairs shall ensure the security and safeguard of

2 the network infrastructure of the Department of Veterans

3 Affairs.

4 (b) ACTIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out subsection

5 (a), the Secretary shall carry out the following actions:

6 (1) Maintain the awareness and complete phys-

7 ical and logical control of the critical network infra-

8 structure, including routers, switches, domain nam-

9 ing systems, firewalls, load balancers, proxy devices,

10 authentication services, telecommunications, domain

11 controllers, and any device that is part of the trust-

12 ed Internet connection system.

13 (2) Provide special security configurations for

14 protecting critical infrastructure devices and serv-

15 ices.

16 (3) Implement policies and security measures

17 that minimize the threats to critical infrastructure

18 devices and services.

19 (4) Ensure that critical infrastructure devices

20 and services, including the domain controller set-

21 tings, are in compliance with the Server Security

22 Plan of the Department under the Department of

23 Veterans Affairs Handbook 6500.

24 (5) Establish access rights, permissions, and

25 multifactor authentication for the critical infrastruc-

9

1 ture devices and services, including the domain con-

2 troller, for specific users or groups of users.

3 (6) Ensure that proper physical security meas-

4 ures are taken to safeguard the critical infrastruc-

5 ture devices and services and limit physical access to

6 such location to a limited number of authorized indi-

7 viduals.

8 (7) Limit the access from network connections

9 to critical infrastructure devices and services and

10 only configure services and software that are needed

11 by the devices and services.

12 (8) Disable or delete any service or software

13 from critical infrastructure devices and services that

14 is unnecessary.

15 (9) Where feasible, secure critical infrastructure

16 devices and services with host-based and network-

17 based security controls and limit the number of

18 ports that are opened between critical infrastructure

19 devices and services, including any device requesting

20 access to network resources and services.

21 (10) Ensure that for any device to access and

22 communicate with critical infrastructure devices and

23 services within the domain, the authentication traffic

24 has to be signed and encrypted.

1   (11) Limit the administrator account from ac-
2 cessing critical infrastructure devices and services,
3 including domain controllers, throughout the net-
4 work and use such account only for emergencies.

5   (12) Restrict remote access to local adminis-
6 trator accounts and use firewall rules to restrict lat-
7 eral movement on the network.

8   (13) Ensure that information leaving a network
9 is properly encrypted by employing enterprise-wide
10 content-centric security or digital rights manage-
11 ment to encrypt, analyze, and monitor sensitive in-
12 formation after such information leave a content
13 management system.

14 (c) DETECTION ACTIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying
15 out subsection (a), the Secretary shall carry out the fol-
16 lowing actions to detect a network intrusion:

17   (1) Demonstrate the applicability of the risk
18 management framework as identified by the Na-
19 tional Institute of Standards and Technology in the
20 selection, implementation, assessment, and ongoing
21 monitoring of privacy controls deployed in informa-
22 tion systems, programs, and organizations of the
23 Federal Government.

24   (2) Ensure that network- and host-based intru-
25 sion detection systems are deployed and properly

1 configured on high-risk systems and areas of the

2 network.

3 (3) Ensure that proper auditing and event log-

4 ging are configured into servers, user systems, fire-

5 walls, networking devices, applications, and domain

6 controllers.

7 (4) Ensure that audit and event logs are for-

8 warded and collected in a central repository for stor-

9 age and analysis.

10 (5) Conduct regular audits and testing of the

11 backups and restore events of the critical infrastruc-

12 ture devices and services.

13 (6) Conduct regular formal penetration testing

14 to test for potential security weaknesses and resolve

15 such weaknesses by not later than seven days after

16 identifying such weaknesses.

17 (7) Deploy proper log review capabilities, in-

18 cluding automated and manual methods, including

19 through a security information and event monitoring

20 solution, that are able to detect, at a minimum—

21 (A) events tied to known signatures, in-

22 cluding common malware and exploits;

23 (B) network traffic attempting to access

24 known malicious Internet Protocol addresses,

25 uniform resource locators, or domains;

1   (C) changes in network traffic behavior, in-

2 cluding unexpected traffic over abnormal ports;

3   (D) application level events, including at-

4 tempted injection attacks;

5   (E) abnormal use of user, application, or

6 privileged accounts; and

7   (F) attempted or successful movement of

8 sensitive data in any unapproved, unencrypted

9 manner.

10 (d) ACTIONS BASED ON DETECTION REQUIRED.—In

11 carrying out subsection (a), if a network intrusion is de-

12 tected, the Secretary shall carry out the following actions:

13   (1) Ensure that events identified through the

14 security monitoring process are properly investigated

15 and resolved through a defined incident response

16 process staffed by trained responders supplemented

17 by external industry experts retained as necessary

18 with capabilities, including capabilities regarding—

19   (A) analysis of events generated by moni-

20 toring solutions;

21   (B) pre-planned responses to common at-

22 tack types, including defacement, denial of serv-

23 ice, malware outbreaks, and advanced persistent

24 threat level threats;

1   (C) reverse engineering of attack methods,

2   exploits, and malware;

3   (D) understanding of common hacking

4   techniques, including initial infiltration, expan-

5   sion, persistence, exfiltration, and the forensic

6   and analysis methods to detect each such tech-

7   nique; and

8   (E) planned and exercised methods to ad-

9   dress the priority of addressing threats and re-

10   sponding to such prioritized threats, including

11   with respect to the isolation of individual sys-

12   tems or entire network segments, mass pass-

13   word resets, and deployment of emergency fire-

14   wall or network changes meant to limit Internet

15   connectivity to only critical services.

16   (2) If the Secretary determines that any critical

17   network infrastructure device or service has been

18   compromised, restore the device or service to the last

19   known noncompromised state and determine the

20   cause of the compromise.

21   (3) If the Secretary determines that com-

22   promised devices or services must be used for a lim-

23   ited time, conduct such use in accordance with the

24   guidance established by the National Security Agen-

25   cy under the document titled "Information Assur-

1   ance Guidance for Operating on a Compromised

2   Network'', or successor document.

3   (e) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after

4   the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

5   submit to the congressional veterans committees written

6   certification that the Secretary has commenced each ac-

7   tion described in subsections (b), (c), and (d).

SEC. 4. SECURITY OF COMPUTERS AND SERVERS OF DE-PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

10   (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure the se-

11   curity of each general purpose computer and server of the

12   Department.

13   (b) ACTIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out subsection

14   (a), the Secretary shall carry out the following actions:

15   (1) Formalize and enforce a Department-wide

16   process to monitor software installed on general pur-

17   pose computers and servers of the Department, pre-

18   vent the unauthorized installation of software, and

19   remove any unauthorized software that has been in-

20   stalled.

21   (2) Not later than 45 days after the date of the

22   enactment of this Act, implement automated

23   patching tools and processes that ensure that secu-

24   rity patches are installed for any software or oper-

1   ating system on a computer by not later than 48

2   hours after the patch is made available.

3   (3) Employ automated tools to continuously

4   monitor general purpose computers, servers, and

5   mobile devices for active, up-to-date anti-malware

6   protection with antivirus, antispyware, personal fire-

7   walls, and host-based intrusion prevention system

8   functionality.

9   (4) Centralize oversight and control to effec-

10   tively administer patch management processes (but

11   the responsibility for testing and applying patches to

12   specific systems may be decentralized to the compo-

13   nent level).

14   (5) Perform regular scans of general purpose

15   computers and servers to discover security

16   vulnerabilities and log the results of such scans.

17   (6) Perform a patch-focused risk assessment to

18   evaluate each system, database, and general purpose

19   computer for threats, vulnerabilities, and its criti-

20   cality to the mission of the Department.

21   (7) If the Secretary determines any security

22   vulnerability—

23   (A) develop a test for the vulnerability and

24   determine the cause of the vulnerability;

1   (B) address the vulnerability, including by

2   patching, implementing a compensating control,

3   or documenting and accepting a reasonable

4   business risk (in accordance with industry ac-

5   cepted best practices) with respect to the vul-

6   nerability; and

7   (C) perform a post remediation scan to

8   verify that the vulnerability was so addressed.

9   (8) Establish and ensure the use of standard,

10   secure configurations of each operating system in

11   use on the computers of the Department.

12   (9) Employ system-scanning tools that check

13   computers daily for software version, patch levels,

14   and configuration files.

15   (10) Deploy a security content automation pro-

16   tocol tool that is validated by the National Institute

17   of Standards and Technology to use specific stand-

18   ards to enable automated vulnerability management,

19   measurement, and policy compliance evaluation.

20   (11) Standardize policies, procedures, and tools

21   for effective patch management, including by assign-

22   ing roles and responsibilities, performing risk assess-

23   ments, and testing patches.

24   (12) Test each patch against all system con-

25   figurations of the Department in a test environment

1   to determine any effect on the network before de-

2   ploying the patch to the affected systems and mon-

3   itor the status of the patches after deployment.

4   (13) Establish and maintain an inventory of all

5   hardware equipment, software packages, services,

6   and other technologies installed and used by the De-

7   partment for patch management.

8   (14) Establish a policy for security fixes that is

9   clearly communicated to computer users to ensure

10   that the users are aware of—

11   (A) the versions of software or operating

12   systems that are supported with respect to se-

13   curity fixes; and

14   (B) when software, operating systems, or

15   other products are scheduled to no longer be

16   maintained.

17   (15) Ensure that—

18   (A) the staff or contractors of the Depart-

19   ment who are involved in patch management

20   have the skills and knowledge needed to per-

21   form the responsibilities relating to such man-

22   agement; and

23   (B) system administrators are trained in

24   identifying new patches and vulnerabilities.

1 (c) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after

2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

3 submit to the congressional veterans committees written

4 certification that the Secretary has commenced each ac-

5 tion described in subsection (b).

SEC. 5. UPGRADE OR PHASE-OUT OF UNSUPPORTED OR OUTDATED OPERATING SYSTEMS.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the

9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall en-

10 sure that the Secretary upgrades or phases out outdated

11 or unsupported operating systems to protect computers of

12 the Department from harmful viruses, spyware, and other

13 malicious software that could affect the confidentiality of

14 sensitive personal information of veterans.

15 (b) ACTIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out subsection

16 (a), the Secretary shall carry out the following activities:

17 (1) Establish a plan for phasing out outdated

18 or unsupported operating systems used by the De-

19 partment.

20 (2) Establish a policy to ensure that outdated

21 and unsupported operating systems used by the De-

22 partment do not connect to the network of the De-

23 partment by not later than 15 days after the date

24 on which such operating systems are so outdated or

1 unsupported, as determined appropriate by the Sec-

2 retary.

3 (3) Establish a configuration management proc-

4 ess to ensure that—

5 (A) a secure image that is regularly up-

6 dated is used to build all new computers used

7 by the Department; and

8 (B) any computer used by the Department

9 that becomes compromised is re-imaged using

10 such image.

11 (4) Implement applicable operating systems

12 based on security guidance identified by the Infor-

13 mation Assurance Directorate of the National Secu-

14 rity Agency.

15 (5) Appropriately configure and test required

16 software that was designed to be used on older oper-

17 ating systems to ensure the software is usable on a

18 new operating system used by the Department.

19 (6) Limit administrative privileges to very few

20 users who have both the appropriate knowledge and

21 business need to modify the configuration of the op-

22 erating system.

23 (7) Until the date on which an unsupported op-

24 erating system is replaced, if a computer uses such

25 operating system, disable web browser plug-ins, use

1 a hardware firewall, and if practicable, disconnect
2 the computer from the network and do not use the
3 computer to access the Internet.

4 (8) Deploy a software inventory tool to cover
5 each of the operating systems in use by the Depart-
6 ment to track—

7 (A) the type of such operating systems
8 being used by the Department; and

9 (B) with respect to each computer of the
10 Department—

11 (i) the type of operating system in-
12 stalled and the version number and patch
13 level of such operating system; and

14 (ii) the software being used on such
15 operating system.

16 (9) Regularly use file integrity checking tools to
17 check any changes to critical operating systems,
18 services, and configuration files.

19 (c) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
21 submit to the congressional veterans committees written
22 certification that the Secretary has commenced each ac-
23 tion described in subsection (b).

1 **SEC. 6. SECURITY OF WEB APPLICATIONS FROM VITAL**
2 **VULNERABILITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that
4 web applications used by the Department are secure from
5 vulnerabilities that could affect the confidentiality of sen-
6 sitive personal information of veterans.

7 (b) ACTIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out subsection
8 (a), the Secretary shall carry out the following activities:

9 (1) Not later than 60 days after the date of the
10 enactment of this Act, develop a plan, including re-
11 quired actions and milestones, to fully remediate all
12 security vulnerabilities described in subsection (a)
13 that exist as of the date of the enactment of this
14 Act.

15 (2) Develop detailed guidance for remediating
16 each critical security vulnerability.

17 (3) Use best practices and lessons learned, in-
18 cluding such practices and lessons described by the
19 National Institute of Standards and Technology and
20 the Open Web Application Security Project, to ad-
21 dress the security vulnerabilities of web applications.

22 (4) Limit the permissions on the database logon
23 used by web applications to only what is needed to
24 reduce the effectiveness of any attack that exploits
25 bugs in the application.

26 (5) Provide to web application developers—

1   (A) thorough application development

2   guidance to ensure that new applications are

3   designed by taking into account security; and

4   (B) detailed guidance on testing existing

5   web applications for security vulnerabilities, in-

6   cluding buffer overflows and cross-site

7   scripting.

8   (6) Configure administrative passwords to be—

9   (A) complex and consist only of strings of

10   letters, numbers, and characters that do not

11   form a recognizable word; and

12   (B) changed every 90 days, in accordance

13   with industry best practices.

14   (7) With respect to passwords used in connec-

15   tion with web applications, store the passwords for

16   each system of the Department only in a well-hashed

17   or encrypted format.

18   (8) Implement two-factor authentication tech-

19   nology requirements throughout the Department.

20   (9) If vulnerabilities in a web application are

21   found, administer a full-source code review to deter-

22   mine if the vulnerabilities exist elsewhere within the

23   code of the application.

23

1   (10) Periodically review user access to networks

2   and web applications to identify unnecessary, inac-

3   tive, or terminated user accounts.

4   (11) Establish a single set of strong authentica-

5   tion and session management controls that meet all

6   the authentication and session management require-

7   ments defined in the Application Security

8   Verification Standard of the Open Web Application

9   Security Project.

10   (12) Implement visibility and attribution meas-

11   ures to improve the process, architecture, and tech-

12   nical capabilities of the Department to monitor web

13   applications used on the networks and computers of

14   the Department to detect attack attempts, locate

15   points of entry, identify already compromised ma-

16   chines, interrupt activities of infiltrated attackers,

17   and gain information about the sources of an attack.

18   (c) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after

19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

20 submit to the congressional veterans committees written

21 certification that the Secretary has commenced each ac-

22 tion described in subsection (b).

23 **SEC. 7. SECURITY OF THE VISTA SYSTEM.**

24   (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the

25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall en-

1 sure that the covered system is secure from vulnerabilities

2 that could affect the confidentiality of sensitive personal

3 information of veterans.

4 (b) ACTIONS REQUIRED.—In carrying out subsection

5 (a), the Secretary shall carry out the following activities:

6 (1) Develop a remedial action plan to address

7 the approaches to interoperability—

8 (A) between multiple covered systems; and

9 (B) between the covered system and exter-

10 nal systems and software.

11 (2) Update the policy, procedures, and govern-

12 ance of the Department with respect to system-to-

13 system integration where users log on to external

14 systems and then automatically connect to the cov-

15 ered system and interact.

16 (3) Provide authentication for the machine-to-

17 machine broker so that the covered system ''lis-

18 tener'' verifies the identity of the calling system.

19 (4) Establish and implement policy with respect

20 to the authentication of external systems attempting

21 to connect to the covered system and criteria by

22 which user authentication must be accomplished to

23 ensure all applications that connect to the covered

24 system convey accurate user information.

1   (5) Establish a business requirement that sys-

2 tem-to-system integration connectivity across the

3 wide-area network must consist of encrypted com-

4 munication and require external systems to securely

5 identify themselves, or for the covered system to se-

6 curely identify external systems that attempt to con-

7 nect to the system.

8   (6) Establish a business requirement that exter-

9 nal systems communicate accurate user information

10 to the covered system relating to actions initiated by

11 actual individuals and facilitate the revocation of ac-

12 cess by the covered system relative to specific users

13 or external systems attempting to connect.

14   (7) Implement monthly project design reviews

15 of the integration between systems and web applica-

16 tions to ensure that the effectiveness of the existing

17 controls is sustained.

18   (8) Assess the potential compromise to non-De-

19 partment networks that are interconnected with the

20 network of the Department, including the networks

21 of the Department of Defense and the Department

22 of Health and Human Services.

23   (9) Ensure that, in the near-term, software de-

24 velopment for the covered system develops the crit-

25 ical enhancements and fixes to the system that are

1 necessary to ensure compliance with changes to pa-

2 tient enrollment.

3 (10) Ensure that all systems of the Department

4 have been given the "Authority to Operate" designa-

5 tion and have been properly certified by meeting all

6 requirements, including a comprehensive assessment

7 of management, operational, and technical security

8 controls, to become operational, and restrict the use

9 of waivers.

10 (c) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after

11 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

12 submit to the congressional veterans committees written

13 certification that the Secretary has commenced each ac-

14 tion described in subsection (b).

15 (d) COVERED SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section,

16 the term "covered system" means the Veterans Health In-

17 formation Systems and Technology Architecture of the

18 Department of Veterans Affairs (commonly known as the

19 "VistA system") that allows for an integrated inpatient

20 and outpatient electronic health record for patients and

21 provides administrative tools to employees of the Depart-

22 ment.

1 **SEC. 8. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH INFORMATION SE-**

2 **CURITY REQUIREMENTS AND BEST PRAC-**

3 **TICES.**

4 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-

5 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall

6 submit to the congressional veterans committees the fol-

7 lowing:

8 (1) Written certification that the Secretary is

9 taking every action required to comply with—

10 (A) subchapter III of chapter 57 of title

11 38, United States Code;

12 (B) subchapter III of chapter 35 of title

13 44, United States Code;

14 (C) special publications 800–53 and 800–

15 111 of the National Institute of Standards and

16 Technology, including with respect to

17 encrypting databases;

18 (D) applicable memoranda issued by the

19 Director of Management and Budget regarding

20 protecting personally identifiable information

21 and continuous monitoring; and

22 (E) any other relevant law or regulation

23 regarding the information security of the De-

24 partment of Veterans Affairs.

25 (2) How the Secretary is using and imple-

26 menting the principles and best practices regarding

1 improving information security, including with re-

2 spect to such principles and practices described in

3 the document titled "Framework for Improving Crit-

4 ical Infrastructure Cybersecurity" of the National

5 Institute of Standards and Technology.

SEC. 9. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION.

7 (a) BIANNUAL REPORTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days

9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

10 every 180-day period thereafter, the Secretary shall

11 submit to the congressional veterans committees a

12 report on the implementation of this Act, including

13 the amendments made by this Act.

14 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—Each report under

15 subsection (a) shall include the following:

16 (A) A description of the actions taken by

17 the Secretary to implement and comply with

18 sections 2 through 7.

19 (B) A timeline and project plan, both

20 short-term and long-term, for implementing

21 each of sections 2 through 7 and assigning roles

22 and responsibilities under such plan.

23 (C) Performance measures, defined

24 metrics, and benchmarks to measure the results

1 of the Secretary in carrying out remediation ef-

2 forts under sections 2 through 7.

3   (D) A description of the best practices and

4 lessons learned by the Secretary in carrying out

5 sections 2 through 7.

6   (E) The progress made by the Secretary

7 during each month covered by the report with

8 respect to reducing the total number of out-

9 dated operating systems, web application

10 vulnerabilities, critical security vulnerabilities,

11 and other matters covered by sections 2

12 through 7.

13   (F) An appendix containing detailed re-

14 ports of the Department, including the enter-

15 prise information technology dashboard and re-

16 ports regarding security vulnerabilities, oper-

17 ating system trends, web applications, and

18 progress made by the Secretary in addressing

19 information security related recommendations

20 made by the Comptroller General of the United

21 States and the Inspector General of the Depart-

22 ment of Veterans Affairs.

23 (b) ANNUAL INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—The

24 Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs

25 shall submit to the congressional veterans committees an

1 annual report that includes a comprehensive assessment

2 of the adequacy and effectiveness of the implementation

3 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of sections 2 through

4 7, including the amendments made by this Act.

5 (c) MONTHLY REPORTS.—On a monthly basis, the

6 Secretary shall submit to the congressional veterans com-

7 mittees reports on security vulnerabilities discovered pur-

8 suant to the actions taken under section 4(b)(5).

9 **SEC. 10. APPLICATION.**

10 In carrying out this Act, including the amendments

11 made by this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may

12 substitute a new risk-based technology or process relating

13 to information security for a specific technology or process

14 relating to information security described in this Act, in-

15 cluding the amendments made by this Act, if the Secretary

16 determines that such new technology or process—

17 (1) is a successor to the specific technology or

18 process described in this Act, including the amend-

19 ments made by this Act; and

20 (2) provides a greater amount of information

21 security than would be provided if the Secretary did

22 not make such substitution.

23 **SEC. 11. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1   (1) The term "Authority to Operate" means the

2   official management decision given by a senior offi-

3   cial of the Department to authorize operation of an

4   information system and to explicitly accept the risk

5   to the operations of the Department (including with

6   respect to the mission, functions, image, or reputa-

7   tion of the Department), the assets and individuals

8   of the Department, other elements of the Federal

9   Government, and the United States based on the im-

10   plementation of an agreed-upon set of security con-

11   trols.

12   (2) The term "confidentiality" has the meaning

13   given that term in section 5727 of title 38, United

14   States Code.

15   (3) The term "congressional veterans commit-

16   tees" means the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of

17   the House of Representatives and the Senate.

18   (4) The term "critical network infrastructure"

19   means information technology hardware that pro-

20   vides—

21   (A) vital network services to the Depart-

22   ment that is vital to carrying out the mission

23   of the Department; and

32

1   (B) communications, security, transpor-

2   tation, access, and authentication services and

3   capabilities.

4   (5) The term "domain controller" means a

5 server that responds to security authentication re-

6 quests responsible for allowing host access to domain

7 resources by authenticating users, sorting user ac-

8 count information, and enforcing security policy.

9   (6) The term "general purpose computer"

10 means a computer that, given the appropriate appli-

11 cation and required time, should be able to perform

12 most common computing tasks. Such term includes

13 personal computers, including desktops, notebooks,

14 smart phones, and tablets.

15   (7) The term "image" means a standard set of

16 software (including the operating system and other

17 software) that is installed on a computer.

18   (8) The term "information security" has the

19 meaning given that term in section 5727 of title 38,

20 United States Code.

21   (9) The term "information system" has the

22 meaning given that term in section 5727 of title 38,

23 United States Code.

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1   (10) The term "malware" means malicious soft-

2 ware used to perform unwanted actions on a com-

3 puter, a network, or computing environment.

4   (11) The term "sensitive personal information"

5 has the meaning given that term in section 5727 of

6 title 38, United States Code.

7   (12) The term "web application" means an ap-

8 plication in which all or some parts of the software

9 are downloaded from the Internet each time the soft-

10 ware is accessed, including web browser-based soft-

11 ware that run within a web browser, desktop soft-

12 ware that does not use a web browser, and mobile

13 software that accesses the Internet for additional in-

14 formation.

15   (13) The term "well-hashed" means the process

16 of using a mathematical algorithm against data to

17 produce a numeric value that is representative of

18 that data.

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